

In the Claims:

1. (original) A liquid water-softening composition comprising:
a) at least one water-softening active; and
b) an organic solvent;
said composition containing less than 35 wt% water.
2. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one water softening active is an acid.
3. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one water-softening active is a carboxylic acid.
4. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 2 wherein the acid is partly neutralised.
5. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein at least one water-softening active is a water-softening polymer.
6. (original) A composition according to claim 5 wherein the water-softening polymer is a polycarboxylic acid polymer
7. (original) A composition according to claim 6 wherein the polycarboxylic acid polymer is a polyacrylic polymer.
8. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 2 wherein the acid water-softening active is partly neutralised by an organic base.
9. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the acid water-softening active that is partly neutralised is citric acid.

10. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the organic base is an alkanolamine.
11. (original) A composition according to claim 10 in which the alkanolamine is monoethanolamine, diethanolamine or triethanolamine.
12. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the organic solvent is a glycol, glycolether glycerine, or an alcohol or a mixture thereof.
13. (original) A composition according to claim 12 wherein the organic solvent is polyethylene glycol, glycerine, monopropylene glycol or ethanol.
14. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which contains less than 15wt% of free water.
15. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition is anhydrous.
16. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which comprises from 10 to 70 wt% of organic solvent.
17. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which has a pH when measured as a 5%wt solution in deionised water at 20°C of less than 9.
18. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which contains a monomeric polycarboxylic acid.
19. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which has a viscosity of 500 to 1,000,000cps measured using a Brookfield viscometer with spindle S31 at 12 RPM and 20°C.

20. (original) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the monomeric polycarboxylic acid is citric acid.
21. (previously presented) A water-soluble container containing a composition according to claim 1.
22. (original) A water-soluble container containing a liquid water-softening composition comprising:
- a) at least one water-softening active;
 - b) an organic solvent;
 - c) an electrolyte; and
- said composition containing greater than 35 wt% water.
23. (currently amended) A container according to claim ~~22~~²²¹⁹ which comprises a thermoformed or injection moulded water-soluble polymer.
24. (currently amended) A container according to claim ~~22~~²¹ wherein the water-soluble polymer is a poly (vinyl alcohol) or gelatin.